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By the King.

A Proclamation for the ſearch and apprehenſion of Iohn Cotton Eſquire.

HER MAJESTY'S STATE PAPER OFFICE

WHereas Iohn Cotton of Warblington, otherwiſe of Subberton, in the Countie of Southhampton, Eſquire, is by ſundry ſtrong and vehement preſumptions, diſcouered to haue committed matter full of very ſtrange and execrable high Treaſons, againſt Our Perſon and State; And the ſame Iohn Cotton (as it ſhould appeare by all circumſtances) hath, vpon a guiltie conſcience, and ſome priuie intelligence of ſearch intended for him, fled from his houſe and dwelling, and lurketh or wandreth in vnknowen places; Although it ſtandeth not with the courſe of Iuſtice to condemne any man vnheard, yet for that the preſumptions and proofes appeare to be ſo forcible againſt him, as if after this publique notice, he ſhall not forthwith come in, and render himſelfe, We ſhall haue iuſt cauſe to conclude him guiltie; We haue thought fit, (beſides Our more ſecret directions) to haue recourſe to the induſtrie and loue of Our people, which neuer failed Vs, in any caſe that concerned Our ſafetie or honour, for his bringing forth or apprehenſion.

Wherefore Wee doe charge and command all Our Iuſtices, Mayors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Headboroughs, and Conſtables, and alſo all officers of Our Ports, to doe their beſt and vtmoſt endeauours, to ſearch for, and apprehend the ſaid Iohn Cotton; (Of whom, for the better informing of thoſe that know not his perſon, Wee haue cauſed a deſcription to be hereunto annexed.) And doe neuertheleſſe require all Our louing Subiects, not only to be aiding and aſſiſting to Our ſaid Officers therein, But likewiſe to vſe their owne particular diligence, care and induſtrie, aſwell for the finding out and apprehending of the ſaid Iohn Cotton, as for the giuing intelligence and aduertiſement vnto any of Our Iuſtices or Officers, where hee hath beene at any time lately ſeene or met, or otherwiſe where there is any likelyhood that he ſhould harbour, repaire or be receiued.

And for the better encouragement of Our louing Subiects to doe their duety in this caſe (which Wee take ſo much to heart) Wee doe hereby declare, ſignifie and promiſe, That whoſoeuer ſhall apprehend and bring into the hands of any Our Officers of Iuſtice, the perſon of the ſaid Iohn Cotton liuing, ſhall haue for his reward the ſumme of one thouſand Crownes.

And on the other ſide, if any of Our Subiects ſhall voluntarily receiue, harbour, conney fauour or conceale the ſaid Iohn Cotton, Wee doe ſignifie vnto them all, that We ſhall account them as partakers, and abettors of the ſaid Treaſons: And if any of Our Officers, or others ſhall neglect or let paſſe any opportunitie, occaſion, or meanes for the performance, or executing of their duety in this behalfe, We ſhall proceede againſt ſuch perſons to their condigne puniſhment with all ſeueritie according to Our Lawes.

Giuen at Our Palace of Weſtminſter the eleuenth day of Iune, in the eleuenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God ſaue the King.

Iohn Cotton is of the age of fourtie eight yeeres, or thereabouts, of a reaſonable tall ſtature, ſlender of body, the haire of his head and beard flaxen, but now inclining to white, well complexioned, with ſomewhat a long and leane viſage.

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M. DC. XIII.